



THE RAMBLER

Volume 33, Number 5 -- May, 1990

75 METERS - 1000 METERS UNDERGROUND

by Gerry King, VE3GK

In 1951, when I was first licensed as VE2WK, I worked as an apprentice electrician for the Canadian Johns Mansville Corporation asbestos mines at Asbestos, Quebec. Locomotives were used to haul asbestos ore and maintenance equipment around 25 kilometers of tunnels at about 1 kilometer below ground. To prevent collisions on the single track, engineers would turn on a red light when passing a stop. This light would stay red, warning any oncoming traffic to wait until the engineer of the leading train changed it to green two stops further down the line. There he would leave a red light to keep oncoming traffic back. Stops were about 200 meters apart and two stops were always maintained between trains. There was a need for voice communications between the main dispatcher and the locomotive operators to replace the system of light signals that were risky and not very efficient. Radios were introduced mainly for safety purposes, but also to increase production.

The locomotives were self-powered by a series of batteries or drew power from trolley lines that provided about 100 volts DC. The special projects technician designed a simple AM rig that would operate on 100 volts DC and was rugged enough to withstand the conditions of an underground mining operation. At that time, I was chosen to help because I was an amateur, albeit not a very brilliant one. I

learned about radio construction while working on this project.

After many tries, we came up with a simple AM transceiver, using six 50L6's -- a 50-volt filament version of the 6-volt filament 6L6. We wired the filaments of two 50L6s in series, using 100 volts on the plates and slightly less on the screens. So started 75-meter, two-way voice communication in the underground mining operations.

Why 75 meters? Because I happened to have a 3.82 MHz crystal in my junk box! At three meters below ground level, all traces of RF at the surface disappeared, so we just went ahead and operated on 3.820 MHz for about ten years until the underground operations were shut down.

**Why 75 meters?
Because, I
happened to have a
3.82 MHz crystal in
my junk box!**

We were only able to effect communications where there were trolley lines, as we had to shock excite these lines to be successful. Our antennas were simple short wires, about eight feet long, located on the locomotive directly under the trolley line. We used a small matching network to match the 8-foot long single wire antenna to 3.820 Mhz. Certainly not very efficient!

We encountered many problems with the radios at first because of the very rough environment and the objections of some of the locomotive crews. The production crews were in favour of the installation because it increased their tonnage and their pay-checks. However, the maintenance crews were very much opposed. With radio communications, the dispatcher was able to locate these crews and keep tabs on them. They were so hostile that they would take the radios off and throw them away. We fought back by housing the radios in quarter-inch steel boxes welded to the engine frames. They overcame this by chaining the boxes to a strong anchor point, rolling their 5-ton machine down the track until they came to the end of the long chain - "BANG!" everything would come off. We would find the boxes and radios in three feet of "muck" in a clean-up car days later. Their answer to where and why was always, "Must have been the other shift." Another method of disabling the units was to park the radio under a small waterfall. It took a while, but eventually "short circuit city."

The dispatcher's transmitter unit was a more powerful one, using an 807 in the final, modulated with a pair of 6L6's. The receiver was an old Hallicrafter.

Despite our 'troubles,' safety and production were improved with the advent of 75 meter communications 1000 meters below ground!





THE RAMBLER

OVMRC EXECUTIVE 1989-1990

President

Doug Carswell VE3ATY
839-5854

Vice-President

Jerry Wells, VE3CDS
2257374

Past President

Alan Boyce VE3LNH
737-4937

Treasurer

Al Beveridge VE3RCS
837-5742

Secretary

Lee Demone VE3OWD
526-1760

Technical Advisor

Ed LeBlanc VE3VLF
829-6314

Public Relations

Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI
837-9598

Membership

Pat Brewer VE3KJQ
825-8721

Rambler Editor

Chas. King VE3PDK
733-2079

The Rambler is published monthly in Canada by The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated, P.O. Box 5530, Station "F", Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3M1. Permission is granted to republish anything, in whole or in part, with proper acknowledgement of its source. The opinions expressed in The Rambler are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated.

NEXT MEETING OF THE OVMRC

17 May, 1990

**Museum of Science and
Technology Auditorium**

1930 hours

*Friends are cordially invited
to attend with cameras
to help celebrate the Club's*

SHOW OF APPRECIATION

*to its
many dedicated members.*

**COFFEE
WILL BE SERVED**

CLUB CALENDAR

Honours and Awards Night

Bring family and friends

17 May

**Election of Officers
21 June**

**Field Day -
23-24 June**

**Amateur Radio Course
September, 1990**

NEED A RIDE TO THE MEETING?

**Call one of the members of
the executive to arrange a lift.
SEE YOU AT THE
MEETING!**

RAMBLER CIRCULATION COMMITTEE

Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

Fred Haire, VE3NJF

Eric Still, VE3OTT

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

POT HOLE NET - Sundays 1000 hrs. 3.760 MHz (includes Swap Net)

SWAP NET - (Ed Morgan, VE3GX regular feature of Pot Hole Net and Capital City FM Net. Call Ed 733-1721 for listings and queries.

POT LID NET - Sundays 1100 hrs(except Jul & Aug) 3.620 MHz slow-speed CW.

CAPITAL CITY FM NET - Mondays 2000 hrs 146.94 MHz. Swap Net featured.

PACKET RADIO VOICE NET - Mondays 2040 hrs 146.94 MHz follows Capital City FM Net.

MILITARY NET - Tuesdays 2000 hrs 147.30 MHz.

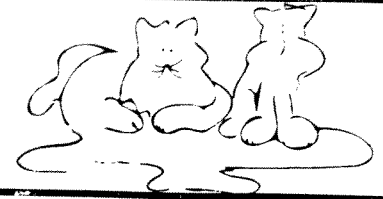
CUMBERLAND EMERGENCY NET - Wednesdays 1930 hrs, 147.03 MHz

THE WISE OWL NET - Fridays 2000 hrs. 147.30 MHz

OVMRC CODE PHONE - 825-0786 24-hr code practice..

Strays

Doug Carswell,
VE3ATY



Well, as I approach the end of my tenure as President, I am surprised to discover that it is all behind me and not the burden that I had imagined. The actual burden, to my delight, was significantly lighter due to the assistance provided by the Executive and the Club members. When I sought guidance regarding the role of the Club, several of the members came forward and indicated where it had come from and where they felt it should be heading. Hence the shift in emphasis from the formal to the informal meeting format.

I can't help recall a blunder I pulled at an early meeting -- I asked one of our well-known members to identify himself. This was in keeping with a practice the Secretary and I had adopted early in the year to help in recording more accurately the names of movers and seconders in the minutes. The apparent cost of the blunder was the absence of that member at any meeting since. I hope that he will accept my apology and return to the May meeting so that he can get his name tag before the year is out. After all, the tags are both attractive and functional. I want you to know that the Executive has been a lot more active than appears on the surface. As an example, the Secretary - Lee VE3OWD, graciously accepted the extra task of preparing an 'official' history of the Club. By now you will have received the first draft of that effort and I hope you have looked back through your records, notes, and memory files for information and interesting anecdotes that you can pass on to the next "historian". As Lee pointed out the bones are there. Now we need to flesh it out. Lee also impressed me with the manner and dispatch he exhibited in preparing minutes for both Executive and Club meetings. He also drafted a number of letters for the Club in response to the different requirements at hand. To Lee I would like to express thanks on behalf of the Club and myself.

One of the roles of Vice-Pres is to locate guest speakers and generally establish the program for the Club meetings. I had two Vice-Presidents this year; starting off with Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI, and later Jerry Wells,

VE3CDS. For the sake of continuity into next year, Jeff and Jerry swapped jobs. It's these fellows who work on the programs, deciding what the meetings are going to be about and where to find guest speakers, etc. (*Not always an easy chore - I know from last year.*) Additionally, Jeff took charge of the Flea Market. He found door-prizes and found a number of helpers willing to give a hand. Those of you who were there know what a rousing success this event was both financially and socially. I hope you all found good fleas that you can bring back to sell next year. (*One of the neat things about being Pres is that you get help from people like Jerry and Jeff and your job is to function as the helmsman - its these guys who make it work.*) To both I also extend my thanks for their contribution and having made our Club richer for their participation in its activities. Jerry as you know is also a Life Member.

Speaking of Life Members, VE3BAJ, Fred Noble, a real gentleman and bon vivant, looks after our guests and make each of them feel that they are a part of our group. Fred also is Chairman of the Nominating Committee and has come up with a good slate of candidates for your consideration for next year's Executive. If you want the best part of being a member of this Club, put your name down as a candidate.

Another of our unsung heroes is Pat Brewer, VE3 King Jack Queen. (*Boy that's a neat call - I have been trying for years with ATY and nothing comes up.*) Pat's contribution is, and has been for many years, keeping track of members in good standing and dunning those who are not. He keeps an eye out for interesting statistics as you saw in the April issue of the Rambler. Thanks Pat for your contribution over the many years and your counsel at the meetings. Oh, yes - one of the ways you could help Pat is to pay your annual dues early this year - it will help to reduce the log jam - I understand there is a "harmonic" due shortly (or may even be here by publication date)) and Pat's attention is going to be diverted for a while as he

prepares new code tapes for his newest recruit.

A quiet member of the executive is Ed LeBlanc, VE3 Very Low Frequency - that's not a screamer but the low vibes beat the heck out of ATY. Ed's contribution has been to take on the assignment of Volunteer Examiner. As such, Ed administers the regs and theory tests on behalf of DOC for the Club. Look around you and you will note the presence of VE3RWG (Rum Whisky Gin), VE3RIM (Radio In Museum), VE3DOB (Dried Out Boozer), VE3KJB (?), VE3SDR (Sailors Drink Rum), VE3WCS (West Coast Sailor) among the graduates of this years course and tested under the supervision of Ed. In addition to acting as the Club's Volunteer Examiner, Ed, has taken on the job of Equipment Custodian. We have a fare chunk of change invested in this stuff. Ed has also got VE3JW back on the air as a two meter repeater station. Thanks Ed for your not insignificant help.

VE3WCS is teaming up with Gaston, VE3SDR, to form part of a sailing crew to bring Brice's (VE3EDR) sailboat out of the Bahamas and back to Florida. (*I am still trying to get my boat, the Oasis, out of the Nepean harbour. I knew that Brice had an ulterior motive - interesting how Captain Bligh assembles his crew.*) I suggested to the West Coast Sailor that they need to take an HF rig with them. He indicated that Captain Bligh er um Brice has modified his back stay into a dipole. (*I hear the old one is to be used for keel hauling.*)

Al Beveridge, VE3SKA is the Club's Treasurer. Al has just gone through "call sign metamorphoses". He started out as VE3 Royal Corp (of) Signals. Having an appreciation of the significance of that call and being a member of that Corp, he made a point of having the Club in Kingston pick up the call and he subsequently took the new call VE3SKA (Slow Key Advocate?). I felt a bit of personal attachment to this guy in that my father was a signaller during WWI and he told me some interesting stories about laying

Strays -- Continuedoage 4

land line as well as inadvertently hooking enemy telephone lines into their switch board. In those days it was regarded as bad form. Al, of course, has his own world experiences in support of the UN forces overseas some of which he shared with us at the March meeting. Thanks Al for your contribution in helping to keep the Club's funds sorted out as well as making your presentation.

The Past-President is supposed to hang around for another year and make sure his successor doesn't get too far off the rails. Alan Boyce, VE3LNH did those jobs superbly and was a font of information and good counsel during many a noon-hour walk. Still, he couldn't resist getting personally involved in many of the projects such as assisting with guest speakers to getting VE3JW up and running. He proved invaluable during the hiatus of Rambler editor change-over. His assistance, provided at some cost in personal time, in getting the new Editor, desktop publishing and editing programs running saved the Club from a major embarrassment and ensured the continuity of our publication. Thank you Alan for your help and wise counsel.

An finally we come to the Club's humorist, Chuck, VE3PDK (Precious Donations Kept - (How's that Chuck?)*. He is, as you know, the Editor of this magazine. It's a tough job, because everybody likes to read but most of us find it difficult to write. *(I have earned my bread at the racket and as a result tend to ramble. But with Chuck's patience and guidance I am sure you will be surprised to discover how easy it is. Now that's a theory to test!)* You must admit that he has made the Rambler interesting and has put his personal

stamp on it. TCA has now re-published two Rambler articles - although only one is properly edited. He also bought a laser printer complete with Word Perfect 5.1 as well as a graphics package. These things were done without asking for financial assistance from the Club. He has not as yet even asked for an ink cartridge for the printer. These are expensive items, running around \$150.00 a crack. These neat computer tools have resulted in what you now see. (Incidentally, you can transfer your copy either in written form, on a floppy, or even using packet radio - now that's versatility.) Thanks Chuck. It goes without saying that the Rambler is a better product for your efforts.

Also have you noticed that The Rambler arrives at you door step early in the month. That's because of people like Fred Haire, VE3NJP, Eric Still, VE3OTT, and Eric's son Kevin, who all help in getting the Rambler through the printing and mailing processes. I regard the Rambler as the real voice of the Club as it is the one contact with all of our Club members - something that doesn't happen at all of the meetings.

While my thoughts are close to the packet radio idea, George Dew, VE2OWW, was at a radio manufacturer's conference in the US recently. His comment: most of the data radios presented at the conference made use of the AX25 protocol. That's a data communications protocol developed and used by Amateurs to exchange computer type messages. What does that tell you - as George points out - it says that amateurs are still pioneering even in this modern and complex era. Boy I hope Communications Canada is listening. If you want more

on this one see the 1986 Handbook chapter 19, page 24.

Then there's the OVMRC Amateur Radio Course Faculty that conducts the amateur radio course each fall. The members of that illustrious group include code instructor Jerry - VE3CDS; the man who sets things up before each and every session, Chuck King, PDK; regs instructor and general code tape manufacturer - Pat KJQ; code analyst and purveyor of sound advice on ways to improve your code -Brice VE3EDR (*also known as Captain Bligh*) ; and yours truly as theory instructor. The Faculty's reward is hearing the new calls being entered on the membership list. You should also be aware that the Museum has generously provided the classroom space and support to the course in the form of printing materials for the course and training aids support.

Needless to say a high for this year was the assigning of the call VE3SLC to my XYL Sue. She managed to get one that matched her initials as did a number on this year's graduates.

A personal benefit arising from accepting the call to office is that I now know a number of members both by their name and face that I probably would not have done had I remained in my traditional back seat. As I say, if you want to share in the best part of membership give our bon vivant Fred, VE3BAJ, a call.

Well I think we have strayed far enough. See you at the meeting.

**(In view of the Pres' antenna involvement, he might consider Always Tuning Yaggis. As for PDK, I've always thought of it as Pretty Dumb Kid Ed)*

VE3CNE HAMFOTO CONTEST

Each year, during August-early September, Toronto area Amateur Radio Clubs operate VE3CNE from the Canadian National Exhibition, the world's largest annual exhibition. This year, VE3CNE organizers are holding an Amateur Radio photo contest to help get interesting material for their display. Why not enter and win a prize? Send your photos (4 by 6 inches minimum, colour or black and white) to VE3CNE Hamfotos, Box 307, Station H, Toronto, M4C 5J2. Include a SASE if you need your photo back.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Charles King, VE3PDK



ERRATA

Two errors in the last issue, two missing lines of text in News and Views and a typo in King Hussein's call sign (Its VJ1 not VY1) reminded me that to err is human, but to really mess things up you need a computer.

APPRECIATION

Eric, VE3OTT must have been reading minds when he submitted his letter on voluntarism. It could not have been more timely. The events of the Awards Night, scheduled for the 17 May meeting, will bear out this Club's philosophy on voluntarism. It is devoted service, filling a real need for the members and the Club as a whole. Furthermore,

these services are appreciated by all the members and this will be evidenced by their presence at the event.

The May meeting will be a social meeting and all members should plan to attend with their spouses and friends. Make this a must on your social calendar.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Volunteers and the Boss!

Your February editorial *The Elusive Volunteer* got me thinking about my experiences over these many years of volunteer services in a number of service and social clubs. Here, for what they are worth, are my thoughts on voluntarism.

All organizations who rely on volunteers to run a well oiled operation, have often searched for help and come up empty. Volunteers are very hard to find and almost as hard to keep because of their motivation, skills and experience. Their reasons for participating are varied and often mysterious.

It seems to me that their needs and accomplishments often determine the success or failure of the organization, because almost without exception volunteers will do precisely what is required of them without complaint, providing the task is needed and appropriate, but will surely back-out if they are ignored or repeatedly left in the background. Volunteers will work long hours under almost any condition as long as they are treated properly and not treated like a captive labour force!

The largest single reason for volunteering is born of a desire to serve the public in the best way they know how; as communicators. They, therefore, have a right to expect courteous, considerate, fair and impartial treatment from their boss or leader. Courtesy is always mandatory; rudeness will cost dearly.

If, on the other hand, you are a boss or leader and also a volunteer you now have two lives to lead! You must always consider your volunteer workers feelings, be

tolerant of their faults in addition to learning and compensating for their weaknesses. Above all be cognisant at all times of the fact that they are taking precious time from their families and friends. Unfortunately, some members will often expect much more from the volunteer workers and volunteer leaders than they have a right to expect, and quite often more than can be given in the name of public service. Leaders under pressure could be asked to change situations over which they have no control, force other volunteers to change their habits, even provide them with special treatment or status, perhaps even get rid of someone they don't like!

Loyalty and consideration is paramount at all times if the job is going to get done. Volunteers should never be criticised in public, but even in private the action should be criticised and not the person. When leading volunteers, the boss should not try to be "all things to all people." Leaders must be diplomatic, a friend and expert, and above all a really good listener. The approach should be to lead the group, not simply to manage or direct it. Good luck to all!
Eric Still VE3OTT

Thank you for those pearls of wisdom. May I add one more thought to those you have so clearly stated. I feel that the one thing that embodies all of the above and perhaps merely restates what you have said is APPRECIATION. One will do almost anything if there is genuine appreciation of ones labours. The Club's realization of this factor will be evident at the May meeting as we honour some of our more devoted and constant volunteers. Ed.

Secretary's Minutes

Lee Demone, VE3OWD



MINUTES OF THE OVMRC GENERAL MEETING - 19 APR 90

1. President Doug, VE3ATY, opened the meeting held in the Auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology, at 1935 hrs, welcoming about 50 members and visitors. He recognized the following visitors:

PY2F X Julio Oliveira Ottawa
VE7S BrentRobillard Sooke, BC
VE5V / Walter Lloyd Regina, Sask.

2. He then reminded members who had previously registered for name tags to pick them up this evening and for those not yet registered but wanting tags to do so as another order will be processed when numbers warrant.

3. In the absence of Vice-President Jerry, VE3CDS, Doug outlined the evening's program which consisted of a number of presentations on "homebrew" and "commercial" products.

4. Doug enquired whether anyone had any technical problems requiring assistance. There was one query from the floor as to why the ends of a folded dipole were connected together. Doug called on Past President Alan, VE3LNH, to respond to the question; he did so ably and with contributions from other members.

5. Doug called on Public Relations Jeff, VE3RCI, to report on the upcoming Flea Market. Jeff reported that about 40 tables had been booked, ticket sales for the door prize were going well, and all planning was on schedule.

6. RAMBLER Editor Chuck, VE3PDK, drew members attention to a reprint of a RAMBLER item, The Humming Antenna, by George, VE2OWW, in the latest TCA. He noted that TCA had failed to credit

the source and read a letter he sent pointing this out. Chuck also drew members' attention to the efforts of the Windsor Amateur Radio Club to petition the Province of Ontario to have "Amateur

Radio" imprinted on our ham callsign plates instead of the existing legend. A poll of those present indicated unanimous support for this move and also for a \$10.00 fee for replacing current plates with the new ones. The results of this vote will be passed along.

7. CARF Director, Dan, VE3EBI, prior to reporting the CARF Bulletin, apologized on behalf of CARF for the use of the RAMBLER item without attribution. Among Dan's reported items were the following of general interest:

a. DOC has indicated that there is no need to delay planning for Fall amateur radio courses because of restructuring;

b. VE0 callsigns can only be used outside the 200 mile limit, that is, in international waters;

c. The FCC in the U.S. has proposed changes to the ham license structure, including a codeless class.

8. Past President Alan, VE3LNH, reported that the Club now had a digipeater operating in the Museum, using the callsign VE3JW. It should assist in providing alternate packet radio access for stations now unable to connect with other repeaters. There were some early software problems and an inadvertent power disconnect, but these matters have been resolved.

9. Membership Pat, VE3KJQ, reported on problems in getting his callsign license plate transferred to his new car owing to the fact that it was registered jointly in his wife's and his own name. Eventually, a way was found around the bureaucratic

roadblock but not without difficulty. Pat also asked members to renew their memberships early if possible to prevent a flood in Sep. There will be a renewal form in the next RAMBLER.

10. President Doug noted that the first draft of a OVMRC history had been mailed to all members with the hope that more information would be forthcoming to fill in the blanks and flesh it out.

11. President Doug next drew the order of speakers for the "Show and Tell."

12. First speaker was Dave, VE3KMV, who displayed and described a homebrew device with an RS232 interface for remote control of receivers. He also described a homebrew DTMF, on-off decoder for controlling lights, motors, etc. Both items were in neat and compact packages.

13. Next speaker was Rod, VE3ROD, who showed a homebrew iambic keyer he built from a circuit in the ARRL Handbook, using CMOS 4000 chips and wire-wrapped breadboard. It has access for both paddles and a handkey. Another neat and professional looking piece of work.

14. For a change of pace, George, VE2OWW, demonstrated a commercial mobile user terminal for installation in trucks as part of the satellite supported Mobile Data Service. Using an 8088 microprocessor and custom software, it connects to a satellite receiver in the vehicle. The service provides for interchange of data between truck and base via satellite, and for real-time determination of vehicle position by base. The terminal uses a unique rubber membrane/ink contact type keyboard.

Minutes page 8



Well, I'll start this month off with a little clarification of last month's article. A couple of lines disappeared in the paragraph on Star Trek. As a result, it didn't make a lot of sense. Here is the corrected version.

In the **Sudbury ARC** bulletin *PACKET RACKET NORTH* column, there is an interesting note involving Star Trek trivia. In Star Trek IV, there is a scene where Scotty is trying to beam Chekov and Uhura aboard, but can't hear them due to interference. It turns out that the offending QRM was actually a 20 meter HF packet conversation between two US amateurs. They must have been in a time warp.

Now here is this month's report, starting in **Calgary**. The big news for the Calgary Amateur Radio Association is that they have entered into an agreement with the Disaster Services Division of the Calgary Fire Department to provide back-up, emergency communications in the event of a local emergency or disaster. The Calgary Club is also running an ATV repeater now. The repeater output is on 910.25 MHz, which can be tuned in on the UHF section of a VCR tuner. This allows anyone with a good antenna to pick up the pictures.

There was no news from the Prairies, so our next stop is

Chatham. The **Chatham-Kent ARC** will be providing communications during the Highland Games on June 2. They hope to be able to provide radio contact with Scotland and do some good PR. The Club purchased a Bird watt meter for use by Club members -- not a bad idea. This is the same Club that runs Bingos. They make a LOT of money, which they give to charity. It appears that some Club members have started questioning whether they are still an amateur radio club and not just a "charitable donations society." (See also reference to a sizable donation to the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund in the Notices of Motions. Ed.)

London is embroiled in controversy as they debate the pros and cons of having tone-encoded squelch on area repeaters. There will be a window for non-equipped radios. If you are in London, you will have to dial 500 on your touchtone pad to turn on the repeater. Also in the *London Arc Bulletin* is some news from Southern Ontario Repeater Association. They have plans in the works to include a packet radio satellite link to Ottawa.

In the **Sudbury SARcommunicator** is an announcement that the May meeting of the Timmins ARC will travel to

Matheson, my home town. Isn't that nice -- I can tell you're impressed.

The **Manitoulin Amateur Radio Club** has added their bulletin to the Sudbury bulletin. The Manitoulin ARC was formed in April, 1988 and already has 40 members and three repeaters! They had a one-year birthday bash in April, 1989 with 50 people in attendance and held a radio class last year, resulting in 10 new amateurs.

Here is some interesting trivia. When the SkyDome is online, it represents a 45 megawatt load to Ontario Hydro -- the same as the entire city of Guelph.

There is an article in the **Scarborough ARC** bulletin (they still spell it Scarboro on their Club logo) on building a concentric quad loops for 18 and 24 MHz. They are spread on a single set of cross arms from egg insulators. The 18 MHz loop is 55' 6" and the 24 Mhz loop is 40' 4". The antenna has an impedance of about 120 ohms and needs a quarter wave transformer of 75 ohm coax to match into 50 ohm feedline. Tony Fegan, VE3QF/G3TTF reports that he is usually one of the strongest signals into Europe. (Shout if you're interested in the details and they will be published in a later Rambler. Ed.)

That's it for now.

JOE NORTON TRUST AWARD FOR AMATEUR RADIO

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc. awards the Joe Norton Trust Award annually for the advancement of amateur radio. The amount of the award is approximately \$800.00.

To be eligible, a candidate must:

1. Be a resident of the National Capital Region as defined by the official government map.
2. Have received a Certificate of Proficiency from Communications Canada during the period June 1, 1988 to June 1, 1990.
3. Send a written submission of no less than 600 and no more than 900 words to the Executive of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, setting out his or her interests, achievements and plans to contribute to the advancement of amateur radio; and
4. Present himself or herself for an interview if so requested by the judges.

Rules

1. Entries must be received on or before June 1, 1990. Entries received after that date will not be considered.

2. The Club will send acknowledgement in writing upon receipt of an application.

3. A panel of judges appointed by the Executive of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club will evaluate all entries submitted before the deadline.

4. Finalists may be interviewed by members of the Executive or the panel of judges or both.

5. Submissions will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

6. If the judges do not select a candidate in any year, no award will be made in that year and the monies shall return to the Fund to be awarded in subsequent years.

7. The decision of the Executive of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc. in the selection of a recipient of this award is final.

8. The winner will be notified on or before August 15th, 1990.

9. The winner will notify the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club of his or her acceptance of the award no later than August 22, 1990.

10. The award will be made during the regular Club meeting in the month of September, 1990.

11. The winner agrees to have his or her name, photographs and address published in Club bulletins, trade papers and on the airwaves.

SEND YOUR ENTRY TO BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 1990 TO:

The Joe Norton Trust Award for Amateur Radio

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club,
P.O. Box 8873
Ottawa, Ont. K1G 3J2

DX de YOU

Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI



CQ CQ CQ DX DE VE3RCI! Calling all OVMRC members. Bring me your best DX catches of the month, any mode, any band (yes, VHF and above, too!). This DX column is based on the reports that you provide to me at each monthly meeting. You can also call me at 837-9598 or send me your loggings via Packet Radio to VE3RCI @ VE3JF or VE3NAV. This column will only work if you support it. Let's hear who you've been working.

ON THE HF BANDS

From Betty, VE3ZBB

No logs from Betty this month, but she made us green with envy at the QSL she brought to the April club meeting. You remember the Indonesian station, YC6KHZ who answered Betty's CQ on 15M last March? He must have sent his card first because she received it in short order. No IRCs were necessary because Betty has a way with OMs around the world, casting her spell with the mellifluous melodies of her perfect CW! Well done Betty. I'm still green.

From Henry, VE3OMU

Congratulations to Henry on his respectable showings in the November ARRL Sweepstakes, for both CW and phone! (see May QST). Slim pickings this month because of the several and severe solar storms. Henry reports the numbers from WWV on April 11 were: Solar Flux 147, A Index 67 and K Index 7! Ten meters really took a beating. Good ol' 20 meters provided some fun - ZS9S (Walvis Bay...a new DXCC country that is a South African enclave completely surrounded by the newly independent Namibia) 1235Z 14.176 SSB; ZK1XN (Cook Islands) 0901Z 14.026 CW (QSL via KR0B); FO0XXL (Mururoa, French Polynesia) 0846Z

14.026 CW; and a nice catch on 40 meters - T32AF (Eastern Kiribati) 0918Z 7.076 SSB.

Lot's of good DX out there in the wee hours of the morning!

From Me, VE3RCI

Yes, the solar activity made a mess of the HF bands, especially when I found some spare time to turn on the rig! Just to let you know that there is still life in this cycle, on April 21 at 2318Z WWV reported Solar FLux 236, A Index 12, and K Index 0 (love them zeros). That brought 10 meters back to life and here's what I found: HC5AI (Ecuador) 1700Z 28.020 CW and 0136Z 21.015; V51MA (Namibia...Mike a new op at about 10 wpm!) 1717Z 28.017 CW; FG5BG (Guadeloupe) 1900Z 28.008 CW; and AH3C/KH5J (Jarvis Is. DXpedition) 1930Z 28.023/026 CW and 1350Z 14.023/025 CW (QSL via OH2BN). Also worked F2JD/HR5 (Honduras) 0131Z 21.019 CW; YN3CC (Nicaragua at 12 WPM ...I guess we'll hear more from YN land now) 1239Z 14.003 CW; ZL2MM (New Zealand) 0418Z 21.056 CW; PT7AQ/QRP (2.5 watts) 0434Z 21.042 CW; and finally one on 12 meters - PJ2AM (Curacao, Netherlands Antilles) 1923Z 24.900 CW. While I couldn't bust the SSB pileup, I did hear ZS9A (Walvis Bay) 1600Z 28.612. It's so much easier with CW when you're limited to a barefoot dipole!

Because there were so few contributions, the column will be short this month. Please make an effort to get active and bring some interesting log excerpts for me at the next meeting. I know that gardening time has already started to pull us out of the shack. Until next month, 73 es gud DX de Jeff.

Minutes from page 6

15. On stage next was Jeff, VE3RCI, who described his silent tuneup device, the "QRM killer", which uses a noise bridge and special switching arrangement. Essentially, it allows adjustment of his antenna tuner for a specific frequency without emitting RF by tuning for a "null" or "dip" on the receiver "S" meter. A nice bit of work and very handy feature.

16. Then followed Brice, VE3EDR, who demonstrated the Spider, multi-band, top-loaded, mobile whip antenna. This commercial antenna was designed for use on boats, campers, vehicles, apartment

balconies, etc. Brice demonstrated the ease with which the coils could be adjusted compared with a conventional Hustler mobile antenna. A very easy to tune mobile antenna in the \$200.00 US price range.

17. Merv, VE3CV, showed a couple of homebrew power supplies. One was a 12 VDC, 1 A, regulated supply constructed from a wall plug-in type transformer. He also showed a NICAD battery charger-power supply for handhelds which can be used in the car or at home. Both reflected what can be done with skill, ingenuity and basic components.

18. Pat, VE3KJQ, closed out the show and tell with a homebrew 1/4

wave 2 meter whip antenna he had constructed from stock stainless steel and a BNC connector, an HF antenna made from an aluminum rod and a mag mount with a screw-in antenna. His final contribution to the show and tell was truly awesome - the CJOH mobile news vehicle with satellite and microwave communications feeds on display in the parking lot. It defies description; you had to be there to appreciate it!

19. President Doug thanked all speakers for their excellent contributions to the evenings program.

20. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2130 hours.

FLEAMARKET 1990 - THE VIEW FROM THE COFFEE SHOP

by Fred and Judy Taetz, VE3PAA & VE3PAB

Observations by Fred, VE3PAA.

This was our first time at helping to operate the coffee and cakeshop. We learned a lot, saw a lot and heard a lot. Even if all the available coffee-making equipment is working, it is several full time jobs.

Mine was to make the brew. This seemed pretty simple. First, fill the pot with water. How do you fill a 60 cup percolator from a washroom sink? VE3LNH says we have a hose. Oh good, but a hose is not to be found. Now what??? (The very first brew was actually made by filling the pot at the water fountain. It squirts a lot and it takes forever). The final solution was to use a plastic container as a scoop. I am still hoping the janitor will forgive me for the mess in the sink, because filling and cleaning all the coffee pots left a greasy residue. It is also very difficult to get the grounds down that little hole.

Second, how much coffee is required for a batch? According to Evelyn, VE3OAM one package for the large pot. Easy, full pot of water, full pack of coffee. Some hearts must still be racing from that first cup of the first brew made with the fine ground coffee that was bought.

Third, plug it in and wait until it's done. Worked ok for the first batch. After plugging in the second batch I tried to get in some purchasing of things I really don't need. But Judy, VE3PAB, soon tugged on my coat (I really shouldn't have worn that bright yellow one) "We need more coffee, NOW !" No problem, just transfer the goods and start another batch. By now of course, a line had formed, waiting for fresh stuff. THE COFFEE POT WAS STONE COLD !!!

No time to check for faulty circuits, faulty pots or who was to blame. We need coffee, and we need it now ! This next batch was less than memorable. Putting hot water on top of ground coffee, stirring it all up, telling people "in just a minute" waiting for something to collect in the bottom that could be doled out as coffee and still charge for it....(We assure you, all codes of sanitary procedures were strictly adhered to at all times!)

Judy and Sue, VE3SLC did a great job at selling all those goodies provided by talented club members and my awful concoctions. This experience has taught us that this is not a job to be trifled with. As a result, we have compiled a list of needs and pitfalls to be filed with the club executive to be passed on to future coffee-making generations.

Observations by Judy, VE3PAB

Not knowing what I was letting myself in for, I attempted to prepare to help run the coffee shop. I had wrapped all the change in the house in anticipation of \$20 bills at the opening. I ran all over town trying to find Environmentally Friendly coffee cups (unsuccessfully even at Loblaws) and tried to anticipate the quantities of supplies required. Thanks to Evelyn, VE3OAM, the first pot of coffee was already brewed.

Sue, VE3SLC had begun preparations to distribute the baked goodies and we were ready for business in short order. My better half, VE3PAA had been assigned to keep the heart brew flowing and it all seemed under control. The trials and tribulations of keeping track of a "flea-market crazed amateur" are another story. One consolation was that I could zero in on that yellow windbreaker to order the next batch of brew. Problems occurred only when four yellow jackets stood in the same area, and none of them was VE3PAA.



Fred, taking it all in stride cooly and calmly!

Whenever the Raffle-Ticket-Sales-People needed breaks, the coffee crew doubled as ticket sales persons. I plan to apply for a psychology professorship for keeping those coffee starved amateurs alive during massive coffee supply breakdowns. All seriousness aside, the affair was fun and a learning experience which I will volunteer for again.

To wrap up this affair, Jeff, VE3RCI did an excellent job organizing this Flea Market, and deserves a round of applause. The turn-out was better than has been seen in the past few years with seven commercial vendors and numerous private tables sold. The raffle prize was won by VE3NJM, Ric Guidone - enjoy it! Just to show that hard work has its rewards, Pat VE3KLQ, who sold raffle tickets for most of the flea market hours, was rewarded with a flat tire on his brand new car.

73's til we meet again.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENCE OF AMATEUR RADIO FUND

Whereas, "The Defence of Amateur Radio Fund was created to raise money to help IARU protect our amateur frequencies at WARC '92 moved by Jeff, VE3RCI and seconded by Pat, VE3KJQ that the OVMRC make a contribution of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) to the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund, representing about one dollar per member.

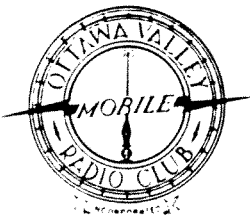
Up for review: 3 MHz - 30 MHz, 500 MHz - 3 GHz and above. The fund, now independent, is chaired by Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM, well known for his work in the Jack Ravenscroft case. It currently stands at around \$6000. Among recent contributions: \$300 from the Chatham-Kent

(Ontario) ARC. A WARC is coming and your support is vital. Contributions are to be sent to Defence of Amateur Radio Fund, Box 56, Arva, Ontario, N0M 1C0.

MEMBERSHIP NAME-TAGS EXPENSES

Whereas the initial amount voted for the purchase of membership name-tags has been expended and not all members have yet received their Club name-tags, it is moved by Alan, VE3LNH, seconded by Jeff, VE3RCI that an amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) be approved for the purchase of additional name-tags.

FIRST CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 1990-91. Get in early and avoid the June rush. Don't wait for Fall do it now before it gets forgotten in the rush of summer activities. Your early renewal will give our Membership Chairman, Pat VE3KJQ a chance to begin the change-over of the mailing system to a PC computer. Early renewal will guarantee that you get a prestigious low membership number!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.,
P.O. Box 5530, Station "F",
OTTAWA, Ontario K2C 3M1

Radio Call Sign

Date

Family Name		Given Name & Initials		Preferred Radio Name	
Address - Apartment, House Number, Street				Home Phone	
City/Town		Province	Postal Code	Business Phone	

New Member Member Renewal
 Association Memberships
 CARF CRRL
 OARC Other

Applies for membership/renewal for the Membership Year.....in the following category:

- REGULAR MEMBER* - as a licensed amateur.....\$15.00 _____
 ASSOCIATE MEMBER* - as a radio enthusiast.....\$15.00 _____
 FAMILY MEMBER(S) - of a Regular or Associate Member.....\$1.00 _____

Given Names

Total: \$ _____ Enclosed Cheque Cash

For Office Use

Membership Number	
Membership Registered	<input type="checkbox"/>
Receipt Issued	<input type="checkbox"/>
Card(s) Issued	<input type="checkbox"/>
Subscription Registered	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Includes subscription to *The Rambler*